



2006 STATE OF KING COUNTY REPORT

KEEPING THE PROMISE AND MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF OUR 21ST CENTURY



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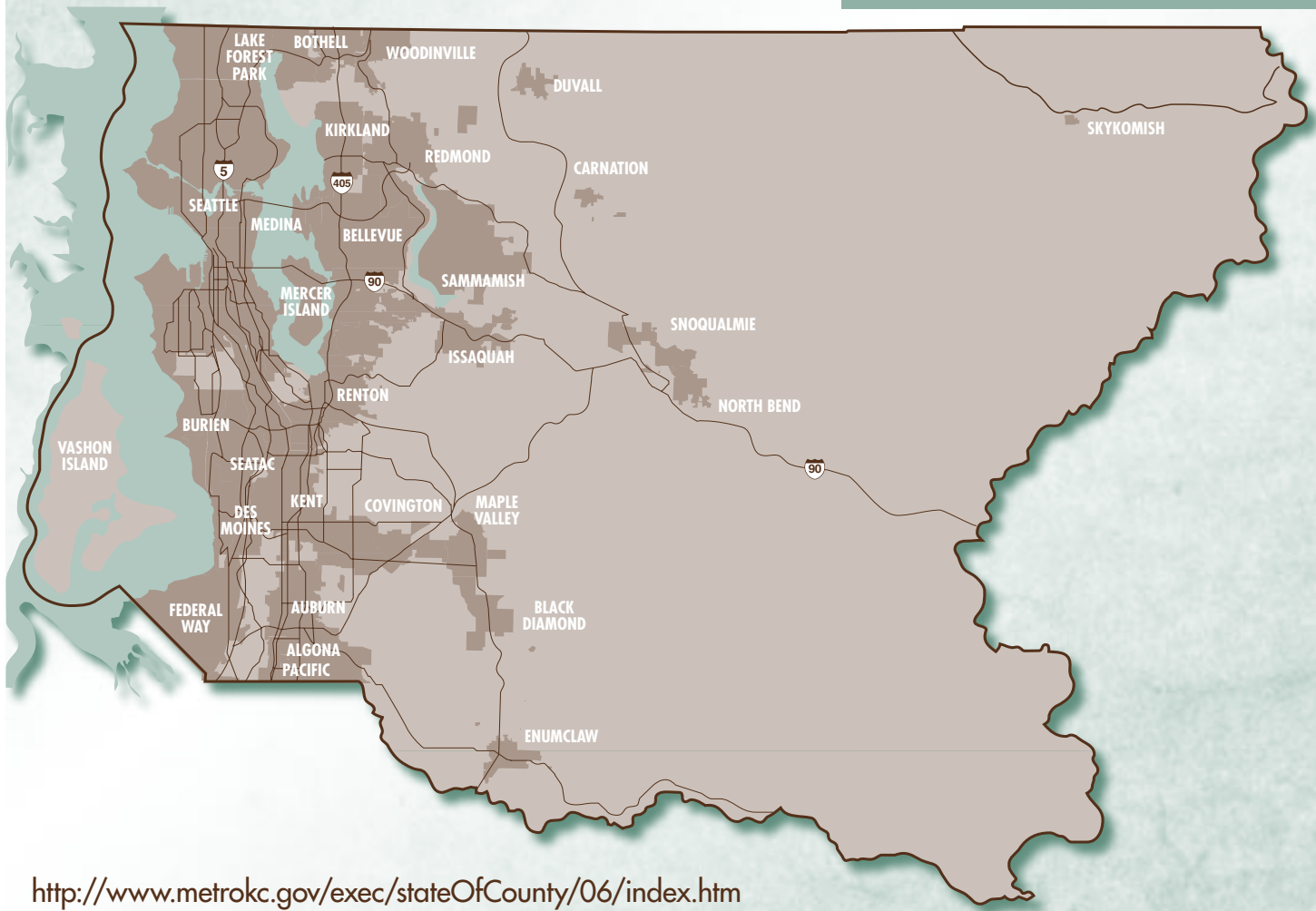
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King County is the largest county in terms of population, number of cities and employment in the State of Washington. It is Washington's second largest provider of government services including public transportation, elections, jail, law enforcement, courts, road construction, social services, public health and wastewater treatment.

Population: 1,788,300*
Cities: 39
2005 budget: \$3.3 billion
Employees: 13,000

Sources: US Census data, 2004 King County Annual Growth report, King County 2005 Proposed Budget – Executive Summary

* Larger than 13 states



<http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/stateOfCounty/06/index.htm>

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Innovation is the lifeblood of a vibrant, democratic community. In King County we are blessed with abundance of innovative thinkers and doers.

Last year I promised action and set out a series of challenges to my departments, our partner cities and the private sector: to engage in the very freshest thinking and develop dynamic, sound strategies for overcoming the daunting problems we face in this very young century. Together, we have tackled:

- Global warming, congestion and the health of our environment, including restoring the magnificent Puget Sound and the creatures that depend on it for their very lives.
- The burgeoning crisis in health care and its effect on the poor, the young and the vulnerable; the growing problem of obesity and the care of the mentally ill.
- Potential emergencies that seem to grow in complexity every year, from earthquakes to terrorism to pandemic flu.
- Sustaining economic growth while ensuring a quality of life that makes ours the greatest region in the world to live.

King County has taken on these challenges while attaining the very highest standards of fiscal discipline and management; a solid foundation that allows continued boldness in pursuing our agenda of innovation and problem-solving.

In this 2006 State of the County Report, I've re-stated the promises I made to you one year ago and marked our progress to date. So you can clearly see how far we've come towards achieving our goals and judge for yourself how we are meeting the challenge of this truly remarkable time.

To you, the people we serve every day, I hope you find our accomplishments equal to the task, as we strive be a world-class government delivering you the best service in the nation.

You deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims", with a stylized, flowing script.

Ron Sims

EXCERPTS FROM KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE RON SIMS' 2005 STATE OF THE COUNTY

"I want to share with you my vision of the future, the future that you and I will build together. Over the next six months, we will launch a series of initiatives that will keep King County at the forefront of innovative and resourceful regional government."

"These initiatives will include the following:

- Protect our water supply
- Create seamless jail services with our cities
- Deliver wireless access to public buildings, buses, parks and the White Center community
- Protect and acquire the last remaining large pieces of open space
- Improve people's healthcare while reducing the growth of healthcare premiums
- Increase our investment in our transportation infrastructure
- Use cutting edge technology to turn waste into energy
- Protect our people, businesses and infrastructure from disaster
- Create new jobs
- Clean up Puget Sound
- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Provide the foundation to end homelessness
- Reduce the spread of HIV/AIDs and tuberculosis
- Reduce Juvenile Detention rates
- Prepare our County for the impacts of Global Warming

"We will continue to inspire, improve, invest and build a lasting legacy. We will continue to look ahead and move forward. We will act now to meet the new challenges of the new century."

TRANSPORTATION

2005: *"We will continue to expand our mass transportation options, using cleaner burning fuels to reduce our contribution to global warming."*

2006: *King County stands at the dawn of a new era in transportation, with a forward-looking, environmentally conscious approach to sustain our dynamic economy and meet the needs of a growing population.*

More park and rides for commuters:

This past year saw the completion of the 700-stall Redondo Heights park and ride and the 1,000-stall garage at Issaquah Highlands; bringing to 5,000 the total spaces constructed by Metro and its partners to make bus riding convenient and reduce congestion.

Wireless on the go: in 2005 King County Metro began wireless Internet access on selected bus routes (#48, #197 & Sound Transit #545). In 2006 wireless performance will be evaluated with an eye towards installing regular service on all buses.

Smartcards: In 2005 Metro and six transit agencies continued developing a single electronic fare system that will allow riders throughout Central Puget Sound to use a single electronic **smart card** to pay their fare across multiple transit systems. Testing of a smartcard technology begins in 2006.

Tunnel transition: The September 2005 closure of the **Downtown Transit Tunnel** to accommodate light rail exceeded all expectations, thanks to effective planning and comprehensive communication between Metro employees and passengers.



King County has increased the number of parking stalls at park and rides to improve transit ridership - getting cars off the road, which both decreases traffic congestion and reduces pollution.

A leaner, cleaner, greener fleet: King County's Fleet Division – one of the largest in the state -- is a national leader in the use of hybrid technology and alternative fuels. The goal: convert 75 percent of all county vehicles to hybrids by 2016.

- 2005: 100,000 gallons of biodiesel for Metro Buses.
- 2006: 300,000 gallons, a three-fold increase.
- 2006: by Executive Order signed by Sims in March, the county's fleet division

A new hybrid bus —increasing service, decreasing pollution, and saving money.





will ramp up to a 20 percent blend of biodiesel in all county vehicles.

- After eight million miles on the road, Metro's hybrid buses show a 32 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 31% better fuel economy, and far better reliability than their older diesel counterparts.

Traffic management: In 2006 our roads division launched the improved "**King County Alert**" which keeps residents informed of weather and traffic disruptions.

Safe bridges: In 2005 King County completed five seismic bridge projects to protect our roads infrastructure from earthquake, bringing the number of bridge retrofits to 110. By 2008 the five remaining projects are scheduled for completion.

Improvements at King County International Airport (Boeing Field): In 2006 the Airport will launch a **major rehabilitation** of the main runway. These and other improvements underway will ensure the safety of more than 300,000 annual flight operations.

Transit Now

King County needs more world-class bus service to accommodate a growing economy and expanding population. In April, Executive Ron Sims unveiled the four-point **Transit Now** initiative. With expanded service and a new "RapidRide" system on five major routes, **Transit Now** will allow Metro to expand up to 20 percent, with 21 million more riders annually by 2016.

No waiting: Upon voter approval, the first phase of expansion authorized under **Transit Now** will begin within a few weeks. <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transitnow/>



Transit Now will put more buses on the road throughout all of King County, serving more people, more places, more often.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE

2005: "We will continue to be the best managed government in the state... As we move forward, we will achieve efficiencies in our county government to reduce waste, focus our resources, and produce savings."

2006: Following a top-to-bottom re-invention of government that has shrunk 14 departments to just 7, and saved \$137 million, King County today delivers services with top-ranked efficiency. The county has passed milestones—and won accolades—for excellence.

Balanced budget benefits from best-in-bond ratings: In October 2005 Executive Ron Sims unveiled a watershed 2006 budget that reflects exceptional stewardship in county finances, including healthy reserves without major cuts to programs. The strong balance sheet is the result of strategic fiscal discipline that helped the county control costs and overcome years of deficits.

In 2005 sound fiscal management earned the county the very highest bond ratings from the three major agencies: **Standard & Poors, Moody's and Fitch Ratings.** All three cited the county's track record of excellent management during recent years, cutting spending and setting aside reserves.

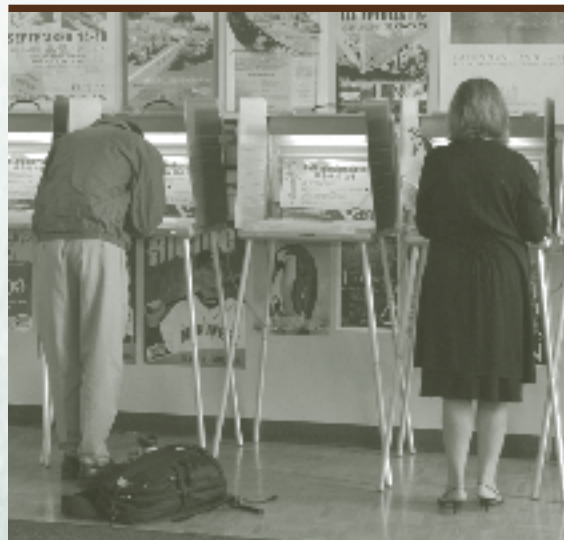
Better bond ratings = more bang for your tax buck: King County's exceptional credit rating will help minimize costs of the planned borrowing, maximizing the investment of taxpayer dollars. Example: in 2006 our Wastewater Division received upgraded bonds status, saving \$1.2 million and allowing the county to keep rates 15 cents lower than projected.

2005: "We will continue our work to enfranchise voters because that is our shared value and that is the intent of our state and federal constitutions."

Improved Elections

By all measures, 2005 was a watershed in the reform of elections, with five highly accurate elections supported by new, rigorous procedures and standards."

We retrained election management staff and held intensive sessions with every poll worker. King County Elections implemented "Fortune 500" standards to track ballots more closely and securely than ever. Certified quality assurance coordinators, now on staff, are guided by quality control measures to reconcile absentee ballots throughout the counting process.



"The ratings reflect the county's dependable economic base, strong financial position, low debt burden and excellent financial management."
Fitch Ratings
(October 2005, "AAA" — highest rating)

"...exceptional financial management through the spectrum of economic climates."
(Standard & Poors October 2005 "AAA" — highest rating)

The County operates 526 polling places during countywide elections. Historically, more than 70% of voters choose to mail in their ballots. That number increased to over 80% in the 2005 primary.

Jacob Struiksmas casts a demonstration ballot at a meeting of the Greater Seattle Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind. Jacob is an avid proponent of the accessible voting unit, as it provides independence to voters who are blind.



"We observed a good election, conducted under extremely difficult circumstances...and intense public scrutiny. The elections section has reason to be proud of the progress that has been made." —The Election Center, a non-partisan outside review team (Dec, 2005).

In 2006, to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act, King County will fully implement voting equipment to allow voters with visual and physical disabilities to cast a private, secure and independent ballot.

All-Mail Voting: Executive Sims has submitted a plan to the County Council

which can bring an all-mail voting system to King County; a plan that will meet the very highest standards of accuracy, simplicity, security and transparency for voters, beginning in 2007. With more than 70 percent of King County voters casting absentee ballots, it is time to move our county to all mail voting. Three independent studies of King County Elections recommended eliminating poll voting to save money and improve ballot processing. http://metrokc.gov/elections/news/2006_05_15.pdf

KingSTAT

Making government accountable every hour, every day.

Executive Sims launched KingSTAT in February 2005. KingSTAT is a dynamic management tool that focuses on continually sharpening the operation of government.

At the heart of KingSTAT are regular, focused sessions where decision-makers share data on precisely how well key functions are performing. From on-time bus performance to development permits, to immunizations -- managers hold each other accountable until problems are solved and results are achieved. This ensures that each division reaches for the very highest quality of service.

KingSTAT goes into full implementation in 2006.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES: PROTECTING PEOPLE, BUSINESSES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2005: “We are leading the way in a regional ‘all hazards’ approach with 127 cities, fire and law enforcement agencies, non profits and utilities. It is an extraordinary effort to meet the new needs of these extraordinary times.”

2006: Pandemic flu. Terrorism. Earthquake. The list of natural and human caused concerns seems to grow every year. Despite the complexity of the challenges, King County is among the very best prepared regions in the nation because of foresight, leadership and confidence in action.

Homeland Security: In 2005, King County distributed \$8.4 million dollars in federal homeland security grants to improve public safety and first responder preparedness; a total of \$70 million in federal homeland security grants King County and its regional partners have distributed since 2002. As a result, King County citizens, business and first responders are now much better equipped to work together in case of emergency—be it earthquake, pandemic or terrorist attack.

Disaster planning: In 2006 **King County Office of Emergency Management** continues to expand partnerships through its nationally recognized Regional Disaster



Plan. Governments, businesses, and local media are all participating.

Public education: King County's promotion of personal preparedness is expanding in 2006. This will include high visibility multi-lingual media campaigns on television and radio. Our ongoing “3 Days, 3 Ways” campaign encourages households to be self-sufficient for three days during a disaster. www.3days3ways.org.

Pandemic Flu: King County is a leader in preparing for pandemic flu. In 2005 the County Council approved Executive Sims' request for \$5.96 million for pandemic flu preparations, including funds for the purchase of 119,000 courses of the antiviral medicine Tamiflu. Tamiflu will be used to protect every first-line responder in King County

Officials from throughout King County take part in a disaster preparedness drill at the King County Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center.



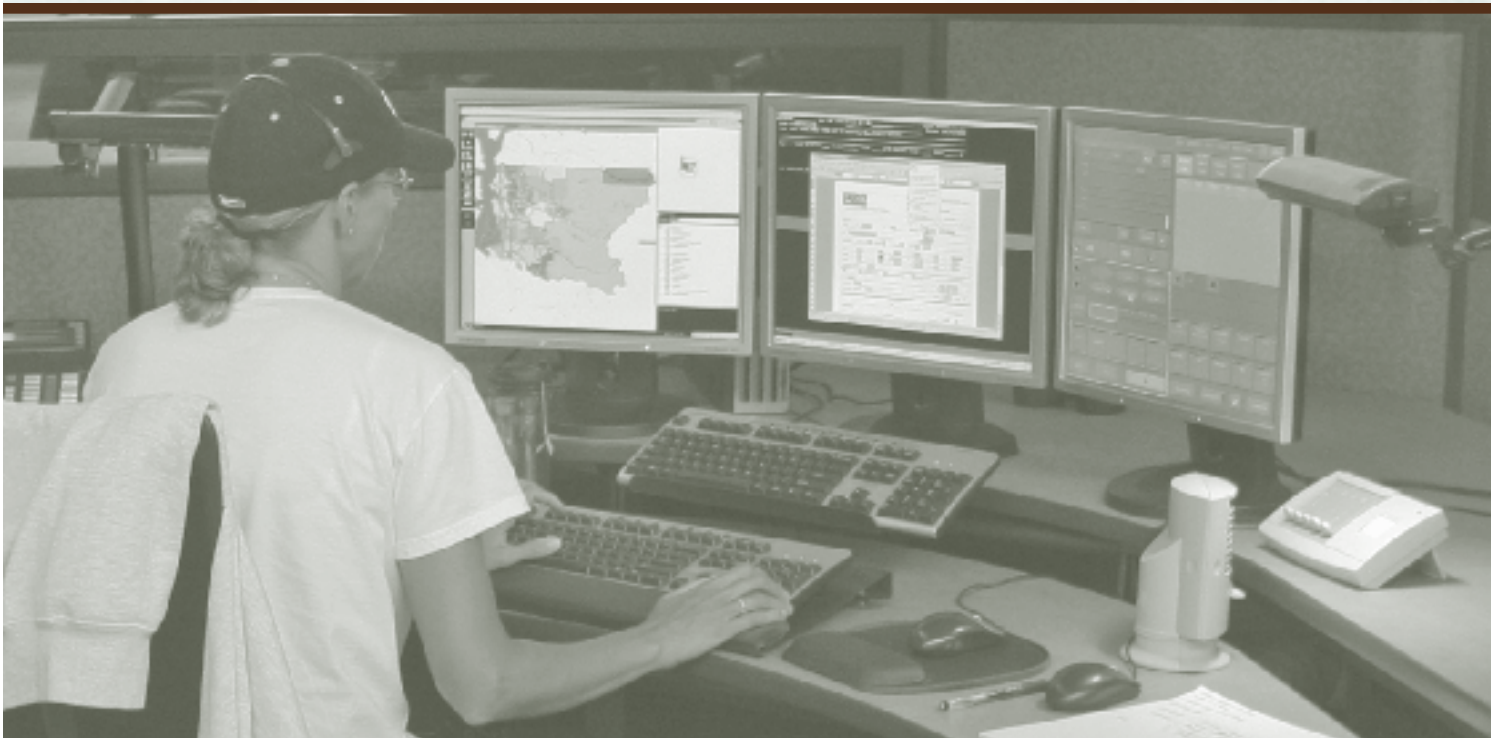
***The Centers for
Disease Control
and Prevention's Dr.
Terrence Tumpey.***

*(Thumbnail image
reprinted with
permission
by the Centers for
Disease Control and
Prevention)*

including every paramedic, nurse, doctor, firefighter, and police officer, as well as our most vulnerable populations. Also in 2005, our Public Health department did ground-breaking work helping schools, businesses, and the health care community prepare. Our Public Health Pandemic Influenza Response Plan has been held up as a national model for its foresight and diligence. In 2006, our exceptional vigilance on pandemic preparations will continue. <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pandemicflu/index.htm>

Ensuring 911 calls get through. No matter what kind of technology is used, we remain focused on our E-911 program, including ongoing testing of 911 calls from cell phones. E-911 is working with providers of new technology, including 911 service for VOIP phones and handheld Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs).

***King County is
dedicated to
ensuring all 911
calls get through.***



ECONOMIC GROWTH

2005: *"We will act now to meet the new challenges... and build our 21st century economy."*

2006: *Our region's economy is on the move. King County plays a key role in ensuring sustainable growth for the benefit of all.*

Compete and Prosper Job Initiative:

In 2006 the Executive launched the five-year, \$10 million campaign to accelerate economic prosperity in King County. In partnership with **enterpriseSeattle** this initiative will create, retain, expand and recruit 35,000 jobs, attracting \$1.5 billion in new capital investment and \$1.3 billion in new wages by 2010.

Retaining global competitiveness:

King County's support of the Trade Development Alliance promotes our region as North America's premier international gateway and commercial center.

Brightwater: stable jobs, stable

economy: In April 2006 we broke ground on Brightwater. Construction of this regional wastewater facility will allow sustainable development to continue while creating 20,000 jobs, both direct and spin-off, over the life of the project.

Supporting a diverse workforce in

construction: The County's Apprenticeship Program managed by BRED resulted in nearly a half million hours of work in 2005 for 503 apprentices in the building trades on County construction projects, with over 10 percent of the work going to women and over 23 percent going to minority apprentices.



Executive Sims launched the **Compete & Prosper Initiative** to boost King County's economy.

King County links women and minorities with family wage jobs in the building trades.

White Center Initiative: King County took giants steps in 2005 to support a healthy, vibrant White Center. In September 2005, we launched the White Center Community Enhancement Initiative, bringing new sidewalks, artwork, business facades and new life to the business district. Through an innovative partnership between King County Parks and the Technology Access Foundation, children and families in White Center, a \$2 million investment—proposed by Executive



**White Center
sidewalk
improvements.**

Sims and adopted by the County Council—will leverage \$11 million in capital funds and 30 years of programming towards the revitalization of Lakewood Park, including a state-of-the-art “21st Century Community Learning Center” with wireless computer labs, a student-run radio station, and brain games to prepare our young people for the opportunities in our growing information economy.

*above right: **King County is working with farmers in agriculture districts to keep family farms vital.***



King County: a commitment to the rural economy and lifestyle

King County's Rural Initiative is a reinvestment in our rural areas. In 2005 our county staff worked with farmers, foresters, and community leaders to create the recommendations of the Rural Economic Strategies Report. In 2006 we are connecting area chefs and retailers with local farmers, making it easier to operate home-based businesses, and providing financial support to small business entrepreneurs. <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2006/0105rural.htm>

Harvest Celebration: In October 2005 King County provided descriptions of the county's agricultural history, historic farms and other structures for the annual event.

Vashon Forest Stewards: In the fall of 2005, we helped this cooperative business obtain three cargo containers to serve as a lumber drying kiln and equipment storage.

Farmer - Chef Conference: In February 2006 we brought together 250 people including area chefs and farmers to connect regionally-grown produce with local restaurants and food stores.

More jobs in 2006: King County applied for \$3 million in federal funds for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley Infrastructure Project to improve the water and sewer infrastructure of the North Bend and Snoqualmie area. When awarded, these funds will leverage hundreds of millions in private sector investments, creating 6,000 jobs over the next eight years.

HEALTH CARE REFORM:

IMPROVING CARE,

REDUCING COST

2005: "High blood pressure does not have to mean a stroke. High cholesterol does not have to mean a heart attack. Our employees will be provided with incentives to exercise, eat well and actively manage their health."



***Executive Sims
receives an award at
the "Health Matters"
Fair in September
2005.***

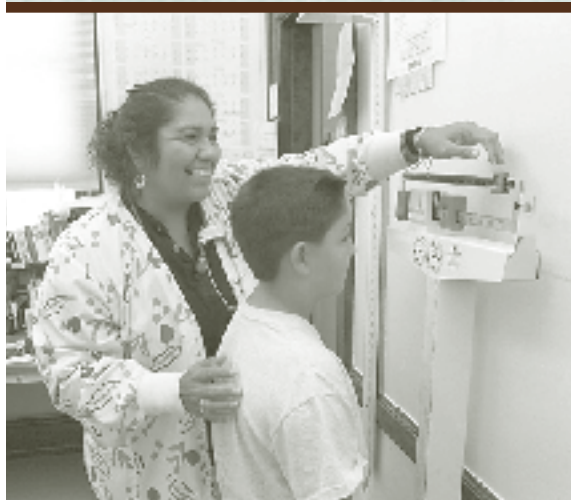
2006: Under the leadership of Executive Ron Sims innovative regional solutions to the health care cost crisis are being driven by King County.

A healthy King County workforce: In 2005 King County began its highly innovative *Healthy IncentivesSM* program, tying out-of-pocket expenses to employees taking on simple but effective wellness activities. Nearly 90 percent of King County employees signed up – a level that stunned national experts. Projected savings: \$40 million by 2009. <http://www.metrokc.gov/employees/default.aspx>

People are taking notice. The Progressive Policy Institute offered the approach as a national solution to the problem of rising health care costs.

***September 2005
"Health Matters" Fair.***





***Executive Sims
co-founded the Puget
Sound Health Alliance
to work towards the
goal of affordable,
quality health care for
all of King County.***

Regional health care solutions: the Puget Sound Health Alliance

2005 was the inaugural year for the Puget Sound Health Alliance, a nonprofit organization co-founded by Executive Sims behind a vision of affordable, quality-driven health care for the entire region.

Participation in the Health Alliance has doubled since May of 2005, to nearly 100 employers, clinics, hospitals, health plans and others representing over 865,000 employees and dependents from Boeing, the State of Washington, Regence Blue Shield, REI, Washington Mutual, Starbucks and many more. Recruitment continues in 2006. <http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/>

LUTAQH

King County is the first local government in the nation to develop a **Land Use, Transportation, Air Quality and Health initiative (LUTAQH)**, a ground-breaking approach that considers the effect of development on walkability, traffic congestion, air quality and individual health needs of our citizens. This comprehensive approach was issued on September 26, 2005 and helps build healthier "walkable" communities, reduce congestion, and cleans the air, all of which improve the county's effectiveness in dealing with global warming. <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/tp/ORTP/LUTAQH/50389jb.pdf>

BUILDING HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

2005: "The ten-year plan to end homelessness challenges us to be more focused and more aggressive. We must create, build and sustain 9,500 units of housing across the county."

2006: Our communities are only as strong as the people who live in them. King County works hard everyday to support individuals and families, providing a foundation for caring and prosperous communities.

Homelessness: The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County is underway. 2005 showed significant progress. The State Legislature has added \$46 million to the State Housing Trust Fund since 2005. In 2006, a new document recording fee will generate about \$3 million per year for our local plan. <http://www.cehkc.org/plan-final.shtml>

In 2005, in concert with our member cities, King County completed construction of 92 new units. King County also collaborated with the City of Seattle and the Downtown Emergency Service Center on the renovation of transitional housing to help the most chronic of our homeless population. Here they have a chance to reclaim their lives.

For 2006, King County has announced \$10.4 million in grants and loans to create 473 new affordable units, including 192 new units of permanent housing for the homeless.

In the fall of 2005 voters of King County said "yes" to the King County Veterans



King County is working to end homelessness and increase availability of affordable housing.

and Human Services Levy, raising over \$13 million annually for the next six years to help fund housing and supportive services for low-income and homeless veterans, their families and others in need. In 2006, Executive Sims will send to the County Council a detailed investment plan for expenditure of the funds as well as nominations for the two citizen advisory boards that will help to oversee the levy proceeds. <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/>

Human Services: In 2005, King County Executive created the Healthy Families and Communities Task Force (HFC) to identify a long-term dedicated source of funding for human services vital to our social safety net and healthy communities. IN 2006 funding recommendations will be forwarded that follow the policy goals developed by the Regional Policy Committee of the King County Council, United Way, Seattle, Bellevue and the South King County Human Services Forum to provide:

1. Food to eat and a roof overhead
2. Supportive relationships within families,

- neighborhoods, and communities
3. Safe haven from all forms of violence and abuse
 4. Health care to be as physically and mentally fit as possible
 5. Education and job skills to lead an independent life.

Affordable housing: In 2005, through its “Housing Sites and Strategies” program, King County worked to locate overlooked county-owned properties suitable for affordable housing.

More housing construction: King County works within the “request for proposals” (RFP) process to ensure more affordable housing is developed. For instance, the pending RFP to develop the North Lot (near Qwest Field) anticipates about 200 affordable housing units for sale and rent.



King County's many Work Training Youth Programs help at-risk youth succeed through enrollment in education and job training programs.

At-risk youth: King County has created a number of successful juvenile justice intervention programs that are offering alternatives to incarceration and helping young people connect to treatment services, counseling, high school or GED assistance, life skills tutoring, and on-the-job training. In 2005, King County's many Work Training Youth Programs enrolled 1,451 at-risk youth into education and job

training programs toward a career path.

Mental health: In 2005, King County served 35,845 adults and children with mental illness. But cuts in state funding for 2006 were threatened. At the urging of King County and with grassroots support, the State Legislature averted the cuts and approved \$9 million in additional funding. Thus in 2006 an additional 800 individuals with serious mental

illness will get the treatment they need. King County has also made a fundamental shift in our local approach, developing the innovative Recovery Plan for Mental Health. <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/mhd/>

HIV/AIDS: Our Public Health Departments' HIV/AIDS program is a national leader in promoting awareness of infection, critical to stopping the spread of the disease. King County has been widely consulted on the use of state-of-the-art rapid HIV testing (results in 20-30 minutes), and other techniques to help prevent future infections.

TB: In 2005, we identified and provided service to over 1,500 people at increased risk for TB. Since 2002, King County has mounted an intensive effort to control the disease. As a result, we have seen a continued decline in cases over the past three years.

Obesity: In King County, we are working on concrete solutions to this burgeoning problem affecting both young and old, including a community-wide “Live outside the box” campaign, involving health care providers, child care centers and local schools, to create alternatives to TV watching. <http://www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/news/06040601.htm>

2005: “We should find ways to keep police on the streets of our neighborhoods rather than stuck in traffic trying to get downtown to book offenders into jail.”

Integrated Regional Jails: This initiative, now underway, is working across local jurisdictions to create an integrated jail system that will save time, money, make our communities safer by reducing the time and effort spent transporting offenders to and from local facilities.

QUALITY OF LIFE

2005: “We are a county transformed with new challenges that need new solutions. We must act now to meet the new challenges of water supply, transportation, climate change, technology, community development and economic growth, and protection for our people and their health.”

2006: Our unparalleled quality of life is what makes living in King County special. Protecting our earth, air and water is integral to ensuring the long term health of our environment and our economy.

Trails Forever

2005: “We already have 175 miles that are a model for the nation. But we are not done. By 2010 we will add another 125 miles of trails.”

Today King County maintains a growing network of 175 miles of regional trails with a commitment to reach 300 miles by 2010.

- In 2006 King County completed the long-awaited East Lake Sammamish Trail—an 11-mile legacy linking Issaquah, Sammamish and Redmond.
- King County will spend almost \$9 million in 2006 to expand and link trails, including the Soos Creek Trail between Renton and Kent, the Green River Trail link from Kent to Auburn, and to link the East Last Sammamish



Executives Sims and others cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

Trail with the Sunset interchange in Issaquah.

- Improvements to the Lake Forest Park segment of the Burke-Gilman Trail are underway.
- King County received a \$900,000 grant to help extend the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail.

Open Space Forever

King County remains dedicated to a vision that our **Cascade Foothills** remain forested forever. We need to ensure that critical salmon habitat is protected, that missing links in our regional trail system are completed, and that citizens are protected from floods.

In 2005, Executive Sims pledged to preserve 100,000 acres of additional forestland and



King County is committed to a goal of 300 miles of trails by 2010.

BNSF Corridor

BNSF Corridor: This year King County embarks on one of the largest rail corridor preservation projects in the nation: the 47-mile Burlington Northern Santa Fe corridor from Renton to Snohomish. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will anchor our regional trail system, increasing it by 30 percent, enhancing recreation and non-motorized transportation on the east side of King County. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/pa/bnsf/index.htm>

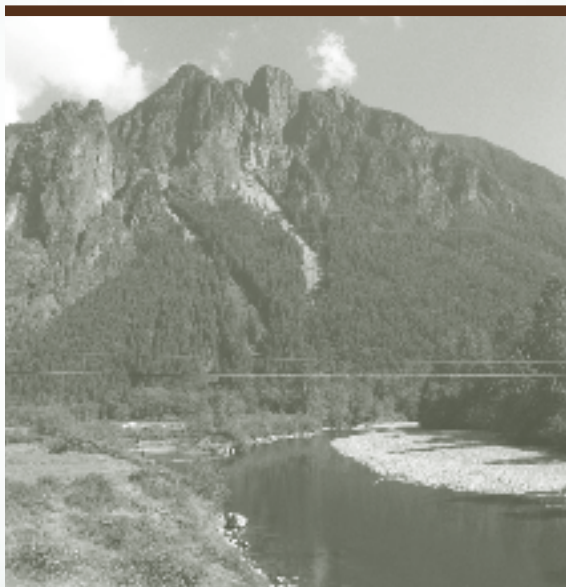
open space by 2010. We unveiled a visionary open space conservation strategy called **Greenprint** to identify the county's most important open space.

Also in 2005 we moved to protect the character of the **Black Diamond** area. The collaborative public/private sector agreement conserves 4,500 acres of open space, park land and forest, and

encourages intelligent development within Black Diamond city limits.

In 2006 King County will use \$11 million in **Conservation Futures Tax** dollars for open space and natural lands acquisition; to protect the headwaters of **Judd Creek** on Vashon Island, buy land along the **Cedar and Green rivers**, and expand **Bellevue's** greenway and open space adding some 700 acres to our inventory of permanently protected open space (now at nearly 124,000 acres).

King County is dedicated to preserving open spaces in the Cascade Foothills.



Salmon, and children too, are essential parts of Puget Sound's ecosystem.



Salmon Forever

In 2005 King County's three Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) submitted landmark comprehensive plans for recovering listed salmon stocks. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/Wrias/index.htm>

2005: "Cleaning up Puget Sound is our responsibility. We cannot run from this challenge, we cannot wait for others to lead the way. We must act now."

Puget Sound Forever

2006: A founding member of the Puget Sound Partnership Executive Sims is working in collaboration with top leaders from tribal entities, governments, universities and non-profits to preserve, restore and protect Puget Sound; putting together a strategic plan with measurable actions for a lasting recovery, both in the Sound and in the watersheds that feed it. We will bring back the Sound and our salmon.

Global Warming

Global warming means change in our environment, including a reduction of our Cascade snowpack that provides water for drinking, farms and fish, for our recreation and our hydropower.

In October 2005 Sims requested and the County Council approved a \$26 million appropriation to construct a reclaimed water “backbone” that will provide tens of millions of gallons of water for agriculture and industry. The backbone makes good fiscal and environmental sense, with expected shrinking water supplies resulting from global warming.

In October 2005 King County sponsored “The future ain’t what it use to be” groundbreaking Climate Change Conference at Qwest Field, bringing academics together with local and state agencies to address the issues head on.

In March 22, 2006 Executive Ron Sims issued four Executive Orders directing county departments to address climate change: increasing use of “green power” and biodiesel, turning more garbage gas into electricity and doubling the acreage of preserved forest and open space.

In May 2006, Executive Sims announced that King County will join the Chicago Climate Exchange, a crucial step in bringing market forces to bear on global warming, with the goal of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. With the market as a catalyst, King County will partner with public and private sector players to develop rules for emission trading, especially for transit, landfills and forests, and press the federal government to enact a national emissions cap.

Read more: <http://www.metrokc.gov/globalwarming/>



In May 2006, Executive Sims speaks on King County joining the Chicago Climate Exchange to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2005: “Climatologists and other leading scientists are telling us that the earth’s climate will get warmer. What does this mean for a county that is expected to add 300,000 new residents by 2050? King County will work with cities, scientist, businesses, citizens, federal and state official to answer that question

and make sure we are prepared”

Water Forever

In 2005, King County brought utilities, tribes, governments, industry, and conservation groups together to focus on the future water needs of our region. In 2006, this collaboration will move forward, with an initial water supply plan in place by December 2007.



Executive Sims and Suquamish Tribe members at the West Point Treatment Plant 40th Anniversary Celebration.

In 2006, King County's Wastewater Treatment Division is carrying out one of the most ambitious sewer improvement programs since the utility was created in the 1950s, investing more than \$250 million in critical projects to upgrade our infrastructure and meet the needs of growth. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/homepage/index-link02.htm>

[metrokc.gov/wtd/homepage/index-link02.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/homepage/index-link02.htm)

2005: "Brightwater will protect our water and public. It will provide the infrastructure that will support economic growth in King and Snohomish County."

Brightwater

In April 2006, King County broke ground on the Brightwater Treatment Plant, the region's most significant clean-water project in 40 years. Beginning in 2010, Brightwater will treat 36 million gallons of wastewater a day, recycling it for use by agriculture and industry. Brightwater will build enough wastewater capacity into our region's system to permit development, protect public health and safeguard the environment over the next several decades. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/>

Energy Forever

Since 2001, county conservation strategies have saved enough energy to power 1,800 single-family homes and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2.5 million pounds a year; saving tax payers more than \$1.75 million dollars annually.

By Executive Order issued in March of 2006, King County has set a goal of increasing the amount of renewable energy it uses to 50 percent by the year 2012, generating energy from waste, investing in "renewables" such as solar and wind, and through conservation.



Executive Sims breaks ground for the Brightwater Treatment Plant.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2005: "In technology, King County will increase services to our residents via the Internet... We have the resources, let's expand their value with wider access to the people who can use them and benefit from them."

2006: Information and Wireless technology have greatly improved access to King County government both for employees and the public. For employees, technological innovation is improving efficiency in data entry and reducing travel costs. For the public it is enhancing service with real time wireless access on buses, in parks and at county buildings. New internet applications are also improving our ability to coordinate the most effective response in case of emergency.

Wireless Access Service: in 2005 King County expanded wireless capability, with secure access for employees at multiple locations and with open access for the public on selected bus routes: at Marymoor Park, White Center, the Federal Way Aquatic Center and more. All told, 20 different sites now provide real time service every day of the week.

Emergency Response: The state-of-the-art Regional Emergency Conference Video System came on line in 2005 allowing secure, reliable site-to-site video communications between officials from Everett to Olympia in case of an

emergency. In 2006 we will continue to streamline communications interoperability within county agencies with improved software and hardware.

Law, Safety and Justice: in 2005 King County

implemented Jail Inmate Lookup System, greatly simplifying public access. In 2006 we will implement a new Booking & Referral system to streamline booking and reduce the processing time from hours to minutes. Also in 2006 new technology will also allow the Sheriff's Office to more rapidly access criminal history information from a spectrum of agencies (State Patrol, FBI, etc.).

iMap: In 2005 King County expanded its iMap portal providing public access to online interactive GIS. iMap serves more than 5,000 users per day.

Election management and voter registration systems are now online, helping to quickly and securely update voter information and keep rolls up to date. In 2006 new voting technology will allow those with visual and physical disabilities private and secure balloting.

Greener computers – in 2006 King County will adopt new EPA guidelines for purchasing computer equipment that reduce hazardous waste, improve recycling and reduce energy use. The guidelines include new "green" manufacturing standards and an up-to-date listing of IT products that make the grade.



King County expanded Wi-Fi capability to White Center in 2005.

AWARD-WINNING SERVICE

2005: "We are bold, innovative and competent. We tackle the tough problems and find workable solutions. This is the very nature of King County. It is our defining characteristic."

2006: King County is a world class regional government. The following recognitions honor some of our most notable achievements over the past year.

program, which trains multi-lingual ambassadors to help non-English speaking residents use public transportation, from the National Association of Counties.

"The 100 Best Fleets in North America" Utility Fleet Magazine 2005; 2nd year in a row recognizing King County's Fleet Division.

"Top 100 General Aviation Airports" King County International Airport/Boeing Field (ranked 10th), *Aviation and Business Journal Magazine*, June 2005.

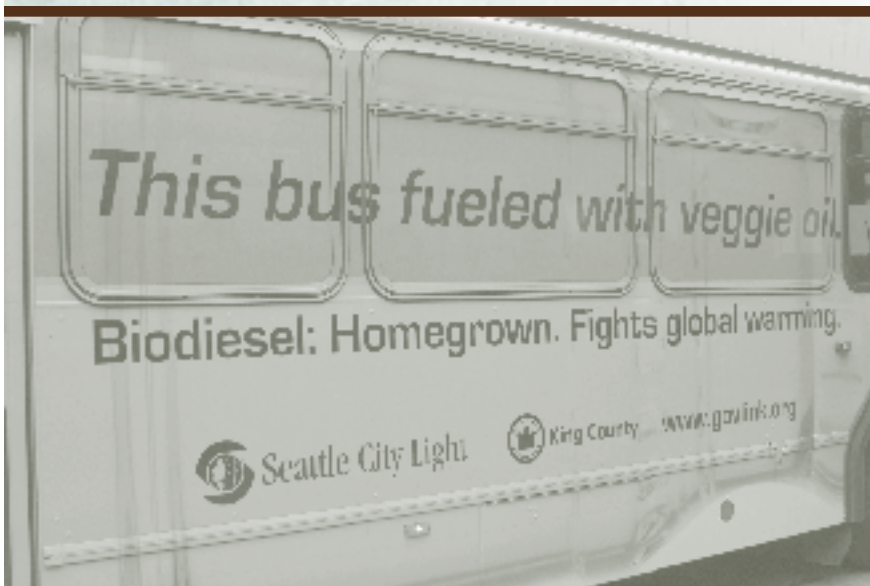
Public Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) award for improving child immunization coverage 17.4% since 2001, to our Public Health department, March 2006

"Public Health Ready" designation from the National Association of County and City Health Officials recognizing Public Health for our ability to respond to health emergencies.

Emergency Preparation

Flood Hazard management—FEMA gave King County the **highest flood prevention ranking** of any county in the nation, translating into significantly reduced costs for flood insurance policyholders.



Hybrid Metro buses fueled by biodiesel contributed to King County's Clean Air Excellence Award from the EPA.

Transportation

Clean Air Excellence Award King County Metro won the EPA's prestigious recognition for hybrid technology and use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel in buses.

2005 NACo Sustainable Communities Award to King County Metro Transit's Residential Transportation Coordinator

Community and Human Services

National Woodson Affordable Communities Award—King County was the only county to receive this recognition from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for reducing regulatory barriers to building affordable housing.

2006 Community Achievement Award for Innovation to the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division by Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation of Auburn, Washington for leadership on mental health funding and mental health recovery.

National One Stop Employment Center of the Year Award to WorkSource Renton in 2005 by the International Association of Workforce Professionals for making employment services more accessible to people with disabilities.

Natural Resources & Parks

Excellence in Management Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies to King County Wastewater Treatment Division, one of only seven national awards.

Award of Honor from the American Society of Landscape for King County's Brightwater Siting Project.

Performance Reporting Excellence Award recognition from the Association of Government Accountants to the Department

2005 NACo Sustainable Communities Award

To King County's Parks Business Plan which has secured over 300 corporate, non-profit and community partners to preserve and enhance parks for everyone. "...one of the best examples of partnership building one can find." From the National Association of Counties.

of Natural Resources and Parks for its groundbreaking methods of accountability that shares results with the public.

2005 National Environmental Achievement Award for excellence in research and technology from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies **for the Fuel Cell Demonstration Project** — A project that generates electricity using methane gas from sewage treatment, producing up to 1 megawatt of electricity, enough to serve 800 households.

Award for Excellence in Special Waste Management from the Solid Waste Association of North America for the King County/Good Guys Electronics Pilot Program that recycled more than 4,000 televisions in one month.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The talents and contributions of our citizens have helped make King County a world class regional government. The four task forces below in particular have helped transform King County. In addition,

51 King County Boards and Commissions make us better every day. We extend to every member of each Board and Commission our sincere gratitude for their hard work and dedication to public service.

Budget Advisory Task Force

Robert C. Wallace (Co-Chair)
John Warner (Co-Chair)
Hon. Terrence Carrol
Clem Edwards
Rollin Fatland
Hon. Booth Gardner
Hon. Darcy Goodman
Jim Hattori
Connie Proctor
Peggy Phillips
Ralph Siegel
Hon. John Spellman
Aggie Sweeney

Metropolitan Parks Task Force

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Bob Wallace (Co-Chair)
Ken Alhadeff
Robin Appleford
Rick Bender
Lynn Claudon
Martin-Jamie Durkan, Jr.
Irene Eldridge
Jim Hattori
Roger Hoesterey
Nate Miles
Louise Miller
Steve Ohlenkamp
Peter Orser
Maryanne Tagney-Jones
Roger Thordarson
Geoff Urbina

Task Force on Regional Human Services

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Toshi Moriguchi (Co-Chair)
Kikora Dorsey
Stephen Dowell
Kris Engskov
Joan Enticknap
Carter Hawley
Rev. Carol Kirkpatrick
Dr. Rayburn Lewis
Patricia McInturff
James Mirel
Stephen Norman
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Annette King
Dan Lessler, MD
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Richard K. Onizuka, PhD
Hon. Charles Royer
David Saperstein, MD
Andy Stergachis, PhD, RPh
Mike Stuart, MD
Jay Tihinen
Debbie Ward, RN, PhD
Cindy Watts, PhD
Ana White

Boards and Commissions

Accessible Services Advisory Committee
Adult & Juvenile Detention Community Relations Board
Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council, Seattle-King County
Agriculture Commission
Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board
Appeals and Equalization, Board of
Boating Advisory Commission
Boundary Review Board
Building Code Advisory and Appeals Board
Charter Review Commission (Meets every ten years.
Reconvenes in 2006)
Children and Family Commission
Children's Health and Access Task Force (CHATF)
Civic Television Citizens Advisory Committee
Civil Rights Commission
Community Organizing Program Advisory Board
Civil Service Commission
Conservation Futures Citizen Advisory Committee
Cultural Development Authority
Deferred Compensation Board
Developmental Disabilities, Board for
Emergency Management Advisory Committee
Employee Charitable Campaign Committee
Equal Employment Opportunities / Affirmative Action
Advisory Committee
Ethics, Board of
Fairgrounds Advisory Board
Ferry Advisory Committee—Fauntleroy
Fire Code Appeals Board, Uniform
Flood Control Zone District Advisory Board - Patterson Creek
Harborview Medical Center Board of Trustees
Health, King County Board of
HIV/AIDS Planning Council

Housing Authority, King County Board of Commissioners
International Airport Roundtable, King County
Issaquah Creek Valley Groundwater Protection Committee
Landmarks Commission
Library District Board of Trustees
Mental Health Advisory Board
Museum of Flight Authority Board of Directors
Noxious Weed Control Board
Personnel Board
Plumbing Board of Appeals
Redmond Bear Creek Groundwater Protection Committee
Regional Communications Board
Regional Justice Center Citizen Advisory Committee
Rural Forest Commission
Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Committee
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Transit Citizens Advisory Committee
Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Committee
Veterans' Advisory Board
Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium
Public Facilities District
Water Review, Board of
Women's Advisory Board

<http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/stateOfCounty/06/index.htm>

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